

Abstract of the Disclosure:

The invention relates to a monitoring method for an actuator (CP), in particular for a piezoelectric actuator (CP) on an injection valve for an internal combustion engine, comprising

5 the following steps: measurement of the electrical current ( $i_{R1}$ ), flowing through the actuator (CP) in an actuator circuit, measurement of the electrical current ( $i_{R3}$ ), flowing before or after the actuator (CP) in the actuator circuit, comparison of both measured currents ( $i_{R1}$ ,  $i_{R2}$ ) for

10 recognition of a fault and generation of a diagnostic signal (DIAG), displaying the fault, depending on the comparison.

According to the invention, the diagnostic signal (DIAG) can take on at least three different values for the representation of an earth short-circuit, a voltage short-circuit and an

15 error-free status depending on the comparison of the measured currents. The invention further relates to a corresponding driver circuit.